

# *News from the Wyoming Department of Health*

Friday, September 18, 2009

## **Anti-Tobacco Program Selected for National Award**

The Wyoming Through with Chew Program, which is primarily funded through the Wyoming Department of Health's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, has been selected to receive a "Vision" Award from the National Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO).

The Wyoming Through with Chew Program began as a small, Teton County pilot project in 2002. The program later grew into a statewide effort directed at lowering Wyoming's spit tobacco usage rates, which are significantly higher than the national average.

"The inspiration behind our efforts is to oversee the prevention battle so that fewer Wyoming residents will be impacted by generational smokeless tobacco use within their families," said Niki Mueller, Wyoming Through with Chew program manager. "We want to help stop this unhealthy cycle."

The ASTHO Vision Awards recognize outstanding state health department programs and initiatives that use a creative approach to address public health needs or problems.

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